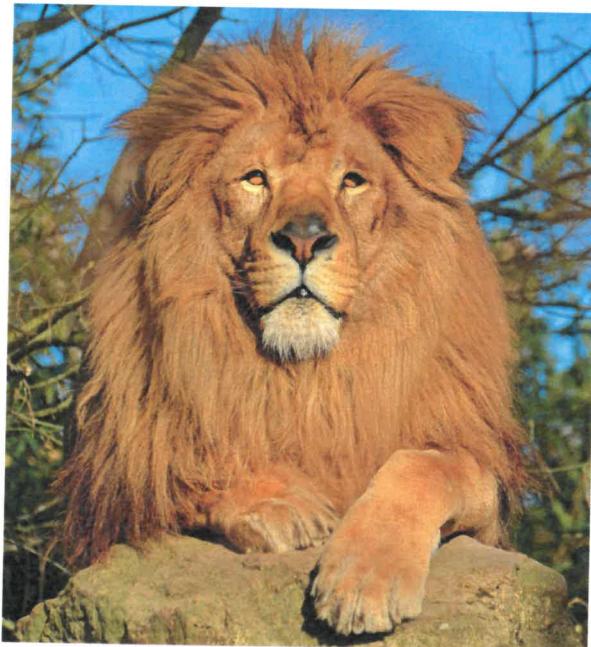


ST KATHARINE CREE CHURCH

The 373rd Lion Sermon

*preached by The Revd Josh Harris,
Priest-in-Charge of St Katharine Cree*



*The Guild Church of St Katharine Cree
13th October 2022, 1.05pm*

About the Lion Sermon

Sir John Gayer was born in Plymouth towards the end of the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. He became a merchant of some standing in the City of London, where he lived in the parish of St. Katharine Cree. He was admitted to the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers, and in 1635 became a Sheriff and then an Alderman.

In 1643, as a member of the Levant Company, he journeyed to Arabia on a trading mission. Here, on the 16th October, he became separated from his companions and, as dusk fell, became aware that a lion circled him. Yet, the lion did not attack. In the morning his companions found him sleeping peacefully with the lion's footprints all around him—a contemporary Daniel, saved from the lion by the protection of God.

On his return to London, Sir John, in gratitude for his deliverance by God, made generous gifts for the benefit of the poor. By his will (1649), he established the annual commemorative sermon, the "Lion Sermon", to be preached on or around the 16th October each year at St. Katharine Cree. The bequest provided for the expenses of the sermon, and an amount to be distributed "amongst the poor of the parish on the same day".

Aside from his overseas adventures, in 1647 Sir John became Lord Mayor, but, resisting Parliamentarian pressure – who by then were powerful in London – and as a supporter of Charles I, he was committed to the Tower of London. During his time of imprisonment he maintained his stand against the Cromwellian encroachments on the City of London's liberties and eventually by popular acclaim he was released in 1648, shortly before his death.

Opening Hymn

A bell rings to signal the start of the service.

All stand to sing the hymn.

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.**

**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**To all life Thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish, but nought changeth Thee**

**Great Father of Glory, pure Father of Light
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
All laud we would render, O help us to see:
'Tis only the splendour of light hideth Thee.**

Acclamation

The Officiant welcomes the congregation and leads this acclamation:

**Blessed are you, the God of our ancestors,
Worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.
Blessed is your holy and glorious name,
Worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.
Blessed are you, in your holy and glorious temple,
Worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.**

Blessed are you who look into the depths,
Worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.
Blessed are you, enthroned on the cherubim,
Worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.
Blessed are you on the throne of your kingdom,
Worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.
Blessed are you in the heights of heaven,
Worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.
Bless the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
Worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

The Collect

The Lord be with you
And also with you
Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, the Ancient of Days, who in ages past delivered your servant Daniel from the den of lions: we pray and give thanks for the life and example of Sir John Gayer; for his deliverance from the lion and his endowment of this annual sermon in his memory; and grant that we, following in his footsteps, may remain steadfast in faith and resist all the assaults of the foe: through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Hymn

**Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim though this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand;
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more (Repeat)**

**Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through;
strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer.
be thou still my Strength and Shield (Repeat)**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
bear me through the swelling current,
land me safe on Canaan's side;
songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee (Repeat)**

The First Lesson

The congregation sits as Daniel 6:10 – 23 is read by a representative of the Aldgate Ward Club

Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime. Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God. Then they came near, and spake before the king concerning the king's decree: "Hast thou not signed a decree, that every man that shall ask a petition of any God or man within thirty days, save of thee, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions?" The king answered and said "The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not." Then answered they and said before the king "That Daniel, which is of the children of the captivity of Judah, regardeth not thee, O king, nor the decree that thou hast signed, but maketh his petition three times a day."

Then the king, when he heard these words, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him: and he laboured till

the going down of the sun to deliver him. Then these men assembled unto the king, and said unto the king “Know, O king, that the law of the Medes and Persians is, ‘That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed.’ ” Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel “Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.”

And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel. Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting: neither were instruments of musick brought before him: and his sleep went from him. Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions. And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel “O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?” Then said Daniel unto the king “O king, live for ever. My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.”

Then was the king exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Lloyd's Choir sing Round Me Falls the Night by William Romanis

The Second Lesson

1 Peter 5: 5– 11 is read by a member of the Gayer Family

Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, 'stablish, strengthen, settle you. To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Canticle

The congregation stands as Lloyd's Choir sing Te Deum in B Flat by Charles Villiers Stanford.

The Prayers

The congregation kneels or sits

Gracious God, fountain of all wisdom, we pray for all Christian people; for Bishop Sarah, for all Christian leaders, and for those who teach and guard the faith. May the word of Christ dwell richly in our hearts, and knit us together in the bond of your love. Hear us. **Hear us, good Lord.**

We pray for the leaders of the nations, for Charles our King, and for those in authority under him. Give them the gift of your wisdom, and a right discernment in all things.

Hear us. **Hear us, good Lord.**

We pray for this City of London, for all those who live and work here, and for those who visit this place. Speak your word of peace in our midst, and help us to serve one another as Christ has served us. Hear us. **Hear us, good Lord.**

We pray for this church of St Katharine Cree. Send your blessing on all who serve and worship in St Katharine Cree and all who enter its doors. Let it always be a place where your love is made known, your truth proclaimed and your name glorified.

Hear us. **Hear us, good Lord.**

We pray for those who do not believe, and yet who long to know you, the very Word of life. Open their ears to hear your voice, and open their hearts to the knowledge of your love in Christ.

Hear us. **Hear us, good Lord.**

We pray for those bowed down with grief, fear or sickness. May your living Word bring comfort and healing to those in need. Hear us. **Hear us, good Lord.**

We give thanks for all those who have died in the faith of Christ, especially today your servant John Gayer and we rejoice with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with Katharine and all your saints, trusting in the promise of your word fulfilled.

Hear us. **Hear us, good Lord.**

As our Saviour has taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father, which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name;
Thy kingdom come;
Thy will be done;
In earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Hymn

The congregation stands

**Who would true valour see
Let him come hither;
One here will constant be.
Come wind, come weather;
There's no discouragement
shall make him once relent
his first avowed intent to be a pilgrim.**

**Whoso beset him round
with dismal stories
do but themselves confound;
his strength the more is.
No lion can him fright',
he'll with a giant fight,
but he will have a right to be a pilgrim**

Hobgoblin nor foul fiend
Can daunt his spirit;
He knows he at the end
Shall life inherit.
Then fancies fly away;
He'll fear not what men say.
He'll labour night and day to be a pilgrim

The 373rd Lion Sermon

The congregation sits

Final Hymn

The congregation stands.

A collection is taken during the hymn for the annual St Katharine Cree Lion Appeal to benefit those facing hardship in the City this winter. You can also give by card at the back of church or online via the link below.

**Will your anchor hold in the storms of life,
when the clouds unfold their wings of strife?
When the strong tides lift, and the cables strain,
will your anchor drift, or firm remain?**

Refrain:

*We have an anchor that keeps the soul
steadfast and sure while the billows roll;
fastened to the Rock which cannot move,
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!*

**Will your anchor hold in the straits of fear,
when the breakers roar and the reef is near?
While the surges rage, and the wild winds blow,
shall the angry waves then your bark o'erflow? (Refrain)**

Will your anchor hold in the floods of death,
when the waters cold chill your latest breath?
On the rising tide you can never fail,
while your anchor holds within the veil. (*Refrain*)

Will your eyes behold through the morning light
the city of gold and the harbour bright?
Will you anchor safe by the heavenly shore,
when life's storms are past for evermore? (*Refrain*)

The Blessing

The National Anthem

God save our gracious King,
Long live our noble King,
God save the King.
Send him victorious,
happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us:
God save the King

Thy choicest gifts in store
On him be pleased to pour,
Long may he reign.
May he defend our laws,
And ever give us cause
To sing with heart and voice,
God save our King.

The Guild Church of St Katharine Cree

The church of St Katharine Cree dates to the 13th century and the current building was completed in 1633. After the Great Fire, the church survived and was used for serving food to workers as the City was rebuilt.

Originally a parish, in 1952 it was designated as a 'Guild Church' which meant it was again given a particular task of serving and building community among workers in the City of London. Today our community is centred on those in keyworker occupations often 'hidden' in the City.

For information about times of prayer, and our activities including free English classes, fitness groups, our community garden and more, please visit our website: www.stkatharinecree.org

This autumn our Lion Appeal is raising money to provide and run a 'warm bank' in the church and an emergency hardship fund for local workers facing poverty during the current cost-of-living crisis. **If you would like to contribute, please use the card reader or give to the cash collection in church or visit www.stkatharinecree.org/lion-appeal where you can give by card, Apple Pay, or Google Pay.**



The Revd Josh Harris

The Revd Josh Harris is the Priest-in-Charge of St Katharine Cree, leading a new stage in its ministry as the City of London's Guild Church for workers. After training for ministry in Cambridge, he served his curacy at St George-in-the-East in Shadwell, alongside working in parliament as an adviser on refugee and asylum policy. Prior to ordination, Josh was an adviser in the Prime Minister's Implementation Unit and across a range of policy and strategy roles in parliament and think tanks. He is a trustee of the international development charity Embrace the Middle East and Director of the Joseph Centre for Dignified Work based here at St Katharine Cree.